

Washington - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez recently received an 'A' on Darfurscores.org, a congressional report card by the Genocide Intervention Network (GI-Net) on efforts to stop the genocide in Sudan's Darfur region.

GI-Net awarded the 'A' grade based on Congresswoman Sánchez' co-sponsorship of the Genocide Accountability Act, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, and House Resolution 723 (H. Res. 723), which calls for the United Nations (UN) and NATO to take action in protecting innocent civilians.

"The millions of people suffering this atrocity are our brothers and our sisters. It is imperative that we stand up for what is right and do everything in our power to end the genocide," said Congresswoman Sánchez.

Due in part to the pressure exerted by H. Res. 723, the UN Security Council recently approved the deployment of a peacekeeping mission for Sudan. Despite this diplomatic gain, the Sudanese government has escalated its systematic, three-year campaign of murder, rape and robbing of innocent civilians. A small and under-funded African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur is scheduled to depart at the end of this month.

To date, as many as 400,000 civilians have been killed, and 2.5 million others have been forced to flee their homes.

"Congresswoman Sánchez is a champion of the cause and has taken crucial action to end the genocide in Darfur," said GI-Net Executive Director Mark Hanis. "However, we still have a lot more to do, and we need Congresswoman Sánchez to keep talking and writing about Darfur."

"In 2006, less than half of the House and Senate effectively stood up for Darfur," Hanis commented. "To ensure protection for Dafurians in the future, an overwhelming majority of Congress must commit themselves to ending genocide and making 'never again' not just a promise we make, but a commitment we keep."

"We all need to build on our efforts to help stop this genocide and bring peace and stability to millions of innocent families," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "We have too much heart not to care, and too much power not to act."